

Life after 'Ally'

DAVID E. Kelley's new Fox drama "Girls Club" features three young female lawyers — a blond, a redhead, and a brunette.

So despite Kelley's impressive resume — including "Boston Public," "The Practice," "Picket Fences" — suddenly people are comparing it to a certain '70s jiggle-fest.

"Charlie's Angels?" laughs star Chyler Leigh. "We get that all the time."

"We actually have to be careful because we'll all be walking down the hallway and it will just get that 'Angels' feel."

"One of us has to trip or do something so it doesn't start to feel campy."

It wasn't supposed to be that way. "Girls Club" will take over the time period (9 p.m. Monday night on WNYW/Ch. 5) that "Ally McBeal" made cozy for love-perplexed young women.

We were supposed to think: Ally times 3. But it may not work out that way.

Leigh — who also starred in the short-lived sitcom "That 80s Show" —

plays Sarah, a young prodigy.

Gretchen Mol is Lynne, the details-obsessed, work-oriented character.

And Kathleen Robertson is Jeannie. "She's the wild one," says Leigh. "She's more eccentric and she'd rather go out drinking than go to court."

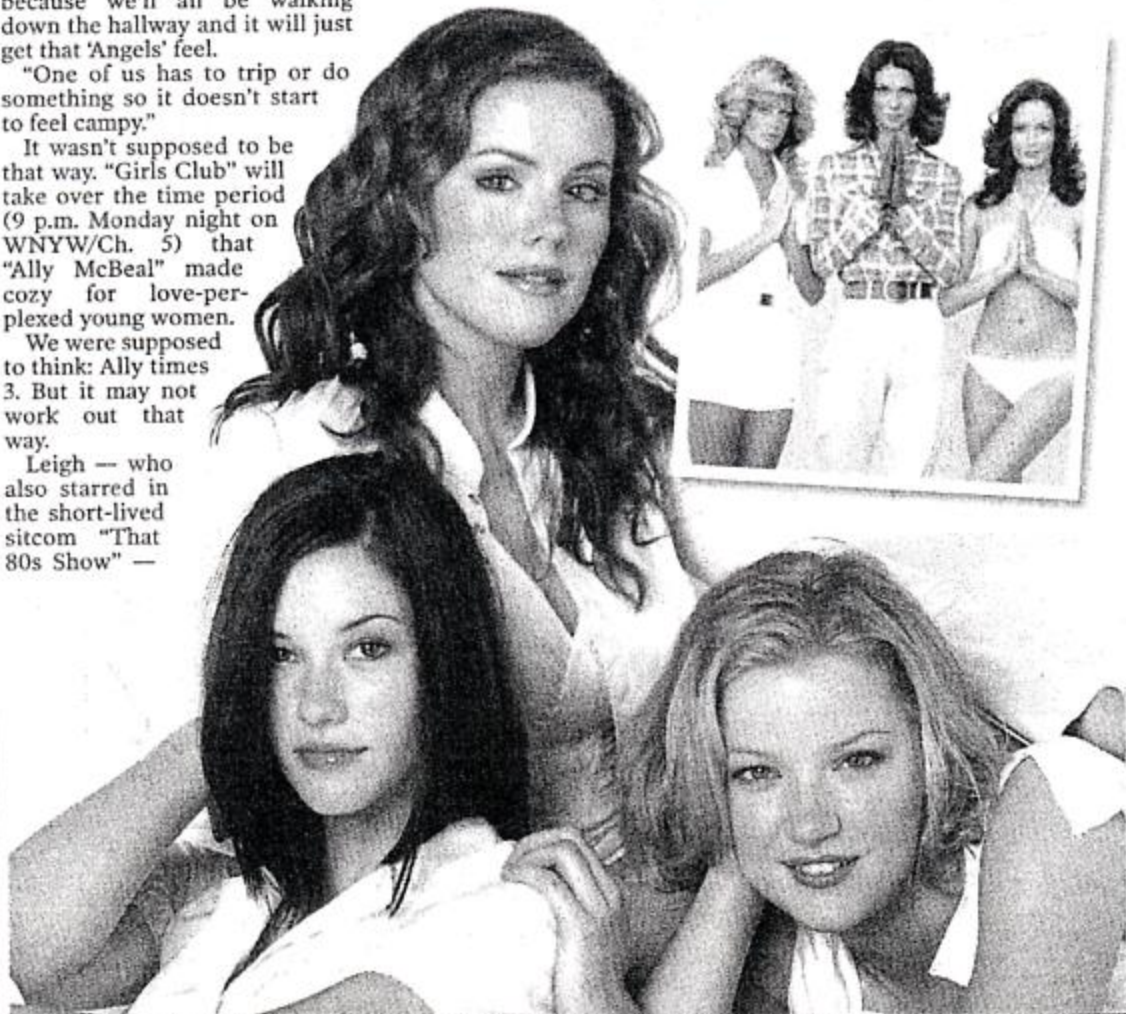
They fight to be taken seriously in a male-dominated business — but Leigh promises the show will be more about their private lives than the cases they take on.

Leigh is certainly being taken

seriously. During the same momentous phone call last spring, the 20-year-old North Carolina native found out "That 80s Show" was cancelled and that David E. Kelley wanted to meet her.

Not a bad year for Leigh, especially, considering she got married in July to actor Nathan West.

"We met while shooting a pilot called 'Saving Graces' for the WB," says Leigh. "We played love interests, so our very first kiss is on tape." — Michael Giltz



"We'll all be walking down the hall and it will just get that 'Charlie's Angels' feel," says Chyler Leigh (bottom left), one of the stars of the new David E. Kelley drama, "Girls Club."